

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WEST ESSEX AREA FORUM HELD AT
THE ADULT COMMUNITY COLLEGE, ONGAR, ON 11 January 2011**

Membership

*** Present**

Essex County Council

* E Webster (Chairman)	J Knapman
* B Aspinell	G McEwen
* S Barker	* V Metcalfe
R Chambers	* G Mitchinson
L Dangerfield	Dr A Naylor
* M Garnett	* C Pond
R Gooding	* J Roberts
A Jackson	S Walsh
* E Johnson	J Whitehouse
* D Kendall	

Brentwood Borough Council (2)

Louise McKinlay	- Leader
Joanna Killian	- Chief Executive

Epping Forest District Council (2)

* Diana Collins	- Leader
Derek MacNab	- Acting Chief Executive
* John Huston	-
* Colin Finn	-

Harlow District Council (2)

Andrew Johnson	- Leader
Malcolm Morley	- Chief Executive
* Muriel Jolles	-
* Tony Hall	-

Uttlesford District Council (2)

Jim Ketteridge	- Leader
John Mitchell	- Chief Executive
	-

Local Councils (3)

Peter Baggott	- E.A.L.C (Brentwood)
* David Aldridge	- Great Dunmow Town Council
* Cllr Y Maguire	- Kelvedon Hatch Parish Council
Joan Bowerman	- Matching Parish Council
Colin Enderby	- Doddinghurst Parish Council
Sheila Jackman	- Ongar Town Council and Vice-Chairman for EALC
* Patricia Barber	- Takeley Parish Council
Cllr P Hammond	- Theydon Bois Parish Council
Cllr A Purkiss	- Theydon Bois Parish Council

Hospitals & Primary Care Trusts

(4)

Catherine O'Connell	- NHS West Essex
* Darren Leech	- Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust, Harlow

Police (2)

Chief Superintendent Simon Williams - West Division, Essex Police

Chief Inspector Alyson Wilson Uttlesford District

Fire (1)

Station Commander John Sherrington - Harlow, Essex Fire & Rescue Service

* Len Cleary - Essex Fire & Rescue Service

Councils for Voluntary Service**(4)**

Jackie Sully - Rainbow Services, Harlow

* Richard Crone - Rainbow Services, Harlow

Jacqui Foile - Voluntary Action Epping Forest

Eric Hicks - CVS Uttlesford

John Fry - Brentwood CVS

LINKs (2)

* J Carr - LINKs

J Harkus - LINKs

G Swain - LINKs

Also Present

(from the attendance book – and as there described)

Councillor Stephen Castle, Cabinet Member for Education & the 2012 Games; Dominic Collins, Partnerships Manager Strategic Sport, 2012 Legacy Team, ECC; Alastair Southgate, Transportation Strategy Manager, ECC; David Sprunt Principal Transportation Co-ordinator, ECC, Julia Chick and Christopher Swain

Officers Attending in Support

* Samantha Ball - Committee Assistant

* Vivien Door - Committee Officer

* Yvette Wetton - Area Coordinator

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed Members of the Forum and members of the public to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr G McEwen, ECC; Cllr A Naylor, ECC; Cllr C Riley, ECC; Cllr J Whitehouse, ECC; Cllr S Walsh; John Mitchell, Chief Executive, Uttlesford District Council; Cllr Ketteridge, Leader of Uttlesford District Council; Derek MacNab, Acting Chief Executive, Epping Forest District Council; David Linnell, Loughton Residents Association; Chief Superintendent Simon Williams, West Division, Essex Police; Aimi Middlehurst, Parish Clerk, Ingatestone & Fryerning Parish Council; Jacqui Foile, Voluntary Action Epping Forest; Jackie Sully, Executive Director, Rainbow Services Harlow; David Matthews, Debden Parish Council; Peter Baggott, EALC Brentwood; and Mrs S Jackman EALC.

3. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the West Essex Area Forum held on 16 November 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to Councillor Mitchinson being added to the apology list.

5. Local Transport Plan

The Forum received the consultation report (AWF/01/10).on the Local Transport Plan and the presentation from Alastair Southgate, Transportation Strategy Manager and David Sprunt, Principal Transportation Co-ordinator.

Alastair Southgate and David Sprunt highlighted the differences from the new Local Transport Plan from the previous plans. The new Local Transport Plan would be in place on 1 April 2011. This plan had two distinct parts. The Long Term Transport Strategy provides the vision for the next 20 years whilst the Implementation Plan describes how the transport strategy would be delivered and managed over a three year period. The new Local Transport Plan provides more local flexibility as it was no longer linked to regional projects. Previously plans were regionally led and linked to specific project funding for a five year period. Due to the economic climate the Integrated Transport Funding had been reduced by 50 per cent and Maintenance by 26 per cent over the next four years. The National Plan had a three point hierarchy:

- Better use of resources;
- Solving local problems by using value for money initiatives;
- Large significant infrastructure to be used only when the first two points have been tried.

There would be no new funding for major schemes until 2015; the service would produce proposals in time to bid for this funding.

There was a new Integrated County Strategy providing a vision for the whole of Essex, the 12 Districts, 2 Unitary Local Authorities and Essex County Council would work in partnership. The strategy had three broad themes:

- Thames Gateway South Essex;
- Key Towns;
- Low Carbon Energy.

Five outcomes have been identified for the Local Transport Plan:

- Provide reliable connectivity for international gateways and Essex communities to support sustainable economic growth, regeneration and well-being;
- Reduce carbon dioxide emissions and improve air quality through lifestyle changes, innovation and technology;
- Improve safety on the transport network and enhance and promote a safe travelling environment;

- Maintain all transport assets to an appropriate standard and maximise network availability and resilience;
- Provide sustainable access and travel choice for Essex residents to help create sustainable communities.

15 policies covering the following areas have been identified and linked to one or more of the five outcomes:

- Customer experience;
- Integrated planning;
- Connectivity;
- Carbon reduction;
- Promoting sustainable travel choices;
- Access to services;
- Natural and built environment;
- Asset management;
- Maintenance;
- Road safety;
- Congestion and network resilience;
- Public transport;
- Cycling;
- Walking and Public Right of Way;
- Freight movement.

Examples were given for projects for supporting regeneration, improved bus services, improvements to allow people to cycle or walk and air quality.

During the discussions the following points were made:

- Members were concerned that freight movement did not take the best or most direct route, and was sometimes planned through narrow country lanes and past conservation areas when there were more convenient routes to take using major roadways;
- Members were concerned that the issues in the Local Transport Plan had not changed over the years and now these issues were expected to be successful with much less funding;
- That Loughton Town Centre regeneration was in the plan but there was no timescale for this work, Alastair Southgate would contact Councillor Pond with this information when it was available;
- There would be a high City Rail link but not within the M11 corridor;
- Members were concerned that there was not a Hail and Ride Bus Service in all Rural Areas, as some villages have no bus stops and therefore no bus service provided. There was a successful Hail and Ride bus service in Pilgrims Hatch;
- The public were normally asked which mode of transport they used, but were not asked which mode of transport would they like to use, this would be included in the next consultation;
- There was some concern that bus lanes were empty in off peak hours and this empty lane then caused further congestion, the Forum was informed that there was no plan to change the bus lanes to all traffic use in off peak hours;
- The Princess Alexandra Hospital had appreciated the improved bus service to the hospital and its satellite services in Essex and across the border, but would like the timetable extended as hospital staff work shifts

over a 24 hour period. The hospital also appreciated any efforts to help people walk or cycle which would improve their general health and help to change behaviour;

- A Park and Ride had been considered for residents in Ongar to use to Epping Forest Underground Railway Station; this had been too costly, as there would be little use for the service during off peak times. London Underground had been contacted regarding extending the line to Ongar and this was also too costly;
- Members suggested that the Local Transport Plan consultation questionnaire should be sent to the public who had responded to the Bus Pass consultation.

The Forum was urged to engage with the consultation, which closes on 11 February 2011 through the website, www.engageessex.org and give their views.

The Forum **Agreed** that the Chairman would write to the Cabinet Member asking if the following could be included in all new contracts as a matter of priority:

- i) That all freight should be routed through major routes rather than down country lanes;**
- ii) That Hail and Ride Bus Services should be included in all new contracts in Rural Areas to enable all villages to have a bus service including when there was no bus stop in a village.**

The Chairman thanked Alastair Southgate and David Sprunt for their interesting and informative presentation

6. Petition for Thorndon Park Car Parking

Yvette Wetton, Area Coordinator informed the Forum that the item on the petition from Mr Samson and Mr Bland MBE had been withdrawn. Local Members were concerned that they had not had any information on this petition and therefore required this information before the Cabinet Member made her decision. Yvette Wetton informed the Forum that she would send the Local Members the information regarding the petition today. The Cabinet Member decision would be reported to the Forum at the next meeting.

7. Olympics and Paralympic 2012 Games

The Forum received a presentation from Councillor S Castle, Cabinet Member for Education & the 2012 Games on the progress for the Hadleigh Farm temporary Mountain Bike course, and the effect on West Essex from the Lee Valley White Water Centre in Hertfordshire. Councillor Castle informed the Forum that Councillor Metcalf, Deputy Cabinet Member for Education & the 2012 Games, worked on the Legacy Board and Dominic Collins, Partnerships Manager, Strategic Sport, 2012 Legacy Team worked to deliver the Games and the legacy of the Games. Councillor E Webster was the Olympic Champion for Epping Forest District Council.

Background and Current Situation

Councillor Castle presented a DVD on the Olympics 2012 and the Paralympic 2012 games providing the context for both Hadleigh Farm Mountain Biking Event and Broxbourne White Water Canoe Centre. The building work was progressing

well; currently there were 10,000 workers on the Olympic Park site at peak times. It would provide 7,000 Full time equivalent jobs in the construction industry. Most events would take place in the Olympic Park. The Olympic Park was more advanced than the facilities at Beijing in the same period before the Olympic Games. There would be 17,000 Olympic and Paralympic Athletes attending the Games in 2012. Essex worked with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) and all partners before the bid was successful and have continued this partnership work. Essex County Council had received Beacon Status for its continued work to provide an Olympic Legacy. It shares its best practice with other Local Authorities and learns from their best practice.

Olympic Structure

The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) was tasked to build the Olympic Park and provide the Local Transport Network for the Games. The Nations and Regions Games (NRG) was Chaired by Charles Allen and Councillor Castle was the East of England Representative. These groups feed into the Government and LOCOG. The Regional Group for the Olympics would continue until 2012. The Chairman of the Essex Strategic Board was Gary Sullivan working with all partners including the volunteer sector building the momentum to 2012.

Essex Legacy

Essex was unique in that it was hosting Hadleigh Farm Mountain Biking Event and that the Broxbourne White Water Canoe Centre was just over West Essex border in Hertfordshire. Both venues have been planned to provide sustainable legacy for the future. Residents of Epping Forest live closer to Stratford than some residents living in London Boroughs. Essex had a group of 12 Young People per year who were Ambassadors for sport. They have been provided with financial support whilst they promote the games by speaking to young people across the county. The National and Regional Groups were keen to leave a sporting legacy, Essex was on target but it was a challenge.

Essex wants to use the opportunity of the Games to change people's lives by providing a sporting legacy, by improving their life chances through increased learning and giving them more confidence. Essex was promoting the Olympic Games related Cross Curricular and Extra Curricular activities in Schools, Colleges and Libraries. This programme would also promote health and well being. The majority of schools in West Essex have registered with "Get Set", with some schools obtaining "Network Status", where they work with other schools to promote the Olympics and its legacy. Davenant School was now a national example networking with schools world wide to engage with the Olympics. Schools in West Essex have linked with Broxbourne Olympic site in particular with Health and Safety in the Construction of the site.

There was £2 million Legacy Facilities Fund to provide projects to sporting facilities across Essex which includes the Playing Fields, Harlow which have been refurbished; Multi Use Games Area, Uttlesford; Astro Turf Pitch, Brentwood and the new BMX Bike Track in Braintree which had been delivered with partners. This new track would bring economic advantage to Braintree. There was also an Art and Culture legacy with artists celebrating the sports men and women's journey to the Olympics through art. The Artists and Olympiads were visiting schools; this project was unique to Essex.

Businesses have tendered for Olympic work, even if they did not obtain a contract they now have the correct processes in place to tender for Public Authority work. 167 Contracts have been awarded to Essex Businesses. Tourism would be able to use the Olympics to promote the County as it was hoped that the Games would show people globally that Essex had some beautiful places and was a far better county than portrayed in the media's stereotypical image of Essex.

Volunteering

There have been three times as many applications for volunteering at the Games than positions. Some of the unsuccessful Essex volunteers would be asked if they would like to volunteer to welcome people at the gateways in Stansted and Harwich and at London Railway stations.

LOCOG Official Sites

Felsted Schools; Woodreden Equestrian Centre and Harlow Leisure Zone have been set up as Pre Games Training Camps by LOCOG. Brentwood School would provide Games Time Training for Fencing.

Lee Valley White Water Site

This was the best White Water site in the world, which will open on April 2010 only taking 17 months to complete. Councillor Webster Chaired the Lee Valley Park to deliver this site. Councillor Castle thanked her for her hard work on this site. Essex worked with Hertfordshire to provide a facility which could be used as a legacy and used by both beginners and Olympiads. It combines providing world class Olympic White Water Canoeing with a White Water Rafting facility the Water was pumped down the course and could be pumped at different rates, thereby providing different types of experience for the beginner and the advanced user. Other Olympic White Water sites could only be used by Olympiads as they do not have the flexibility to cater for beginners. This had provided an economic impact on the South West of Essex and Hertfordshire. This site had a Visitors Centre and cafe and a public viewing area. The site would accommodate 12,000 spectators a day during the Olympics.

Hadley Farm Mountain Bike Site

This site was almost 95 per cent completed and was the smallest event in the Games and would provide a technically challenging terrain cycling race taking two to three laps per race. There would be 50 male and 30 female riders. The site would accommodate 40,000 spectators over two days. The Salvation Army owns the site and has agreed to have a 10 year legacy for the site. The Hadley Farm site was a key element in the Thames Gateway regeneration programme which would contribute to the Hadley Town Regeneration. Government funding had been obtained to purchase the Hadley Town Fire Station to use to showcase the Olympics.

Councillor Castle informed the Forum that the Olympics have brought a unique opportunity for businesses, schools and Local Authorities to use to make the difference to provide the legacy.

During the discussion the following points were made:

- That the horses for the equine Olympic events would fly to Stansted and would be housed at Towerlands, Braintree; Greenwich Park London.

Waltham Abbey and Great Lees have been chosen as Pre Games Training Camps for foreign equestrian teams;

- That Linda Gaine, Partnership Manager, Strategic Sport, 2012 Legacy Team could provide information on who to contact in Sports England to bid for Legacy funding for a Local Running Group;
- That the Lee Valley Park website had information regarding who to contact regarding Legacy funding;
- That the Essex Ambassadors were sports men and women who hope to compete in the 2012 and/or 2016 Olympics;
- There was an opportunity for volunteers in Essex for all ages to become involved for a four hour period, (not opened yet), whereas the main Olympic Volunteers would need to volunteer for a longer period, and had been oversubscribed and was therefore closed;
- That there was no information on which company would test the Olympiads for Drugs;
- A Member was concerned that there may be congestion at the Epping Forest London Underground link if people choose to use it during the Games. Councillor Castle would inform the ODA;
- "Raise the Roof", a dance group based in Harlow could be used in the cultural events. Councillor Castle would inform Councillor Lucas;
- That the Essex County Council pens provided for use at Stansted Airport could also include the tourism website, which would provide visitors with information about Essex.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Castle for his interesting and informative presentation.

8. Future Programme of Work

The Forum received and noted the Forward Work Plan AFW/02/10.

The following items have been added to the Forward Plan:

- The Community Care Item would be presented at the next meeting;
- The Government's Carbon Reduction Policy was added to the Forward Plan.

9. Public Questions

There were no public questions.

10. Dates of Future Meetings

The date of the next meeting was noted as Tuesday 8th March 2011, 10.00 am at the Adult Community College, Ongar.

11. Urgent Business

There being no further business, the Chairman expressed her thanks to members of the Forum and others for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 12.15 pm.

Chairman